

# Fuel Load Management Work Group Coordination

The Land Use and Aesthetic Work Group (LUWG) is preparing a study plan for fuel load management. This is obviously an interdisciplinary study that will require input of varying degrees from all of the other work groups. Before we finalize the plan, we need information from the other work groups.

The objectives of the Fuel Load Study at this time are:

- To review fuel load management techniques that are being used by various entities and to discuss those techniques with the other work groups (we would also appreciate input from other work groups related to techniques being used). We would perform a brief analysis regarding the “pros and cons” of each of the techniques. The study would include descriptions of a range of techniques that seem to be “doable at the project” so that the other work groups could do impact analysis on those techniques.
- Identifying areas at the project where there are areas of heavy fuel load (which ultimately would mean areas of high risk of fire). The decision of whether or not to recommend potential treatment of these areas would require input from other work groups and a balancing of potentially conflicting input.

The following summaries depict what we believe the goals of the various work groups are related to fuel load management. It also suggests input from the various work groups that is needed before we can complete the Fuel Load Study Plan.

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## Environmental Work Group

### Stated Goals Related to Fuel Load Management

- Examine the effects of historic fire prevention strategies on plant communities and wildlife.
- Assess the impacts of potential fuel management strategies on plant communities and wildlife.

### Potential Involvement With Land Use Work Group

- Inform LUWG of treatments or intensities of treatments that would be acceptable, or unacceptable, from a plant community and/or wildlife perspective.
- Inform LUWG of geographic locations or plant communities at the project that should, or should not be, considered for fuel load treatments.

## **Recreation and Social Science Work Group**

### Stated Goals Related to Fuel Load Management

- LUWG is not aware of any.

### Potential Involvement With Land Use Work Group

- Inform LUWG of existing or potential future areas where recreational users (or specific types of users) could increase the likelihood of fire.
- Inform LUWG of locations where certain types of treatment activities (which have not been identified but could potentially include fire breaks, selective harvest, mechanical removal of undergrowth, prescribed burns) may be or not be acceptable.

## **Cultural Resources Work Group**

### Stated Goals Related to Fuel Load Management

- LUWG is not aware of any.

### Potential Involvement With Land Use Work Group

- Inform LUWG of locations where certain types of treatment activities may be or not be acceptable from a cultural resources perspective. Activities could potentially include; fire breaks, selective harvest, mechanical removal of undergrowth, prescribed burns.
- Inform LUWG of input that may be required from Native Americans regarding possible historic practices related to their ancestors using fire as a way to manage the landscape near the project.

## **Engineering and Operations Work Group**

### Stated Goals Related to Fuel Load Management

- LUWG is not aware of any.

### Potential Involvement With Land Use Work Group

- Inform LUWG of locations where certain types of treatment activities may be or not be acceptable from an operations perspective. Activities could potentially include; fire breaks, selective harvest, mechanical removal of undergrowth, prescribed burns.
- Inform LUWG of existing or potential maintenance activities that involve vegetation.